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would constantly be at each other's throats. Many unpleasant and delicate affairs are arranged which if divulged would deeply disturb the tranquillity of the peoples.

"Proof of this has just been demonstrated in a striking manner. The Franco-Italian agreement of 1900, eliminating all causes of conflict in the Mediterranean and tracing reciprocal spheres of influence in Africa, was followed by an agreement in 1902 establishing that in case of an aggressive war either country would maintain strict neutrality, even in case one of them was obliged to declare war to defend her honor and safety. What the two governments agreed contained nothing clandestine, nothing which could not be confessed. But if we recall the situation in Europe then it will be easily understood that knowledge of the agreements by those who had an interest in making them ineffective would have been a grave danger.

"France still wanted peace while the Central Powers prepared for war. If the Teuton powers had known the ties about to be established between the two great Latin peoples they would have done everything to break them off. Such an attempt would have put the peace of the world in danger, hastening the hour in which our adversaries determined to consolidate their hegemony by iron and fire. The French and Italian governments were, therefore, wise to keep their agreements a secret, which was never violated."

## Letter Box

### CORRESPONDING WITH GERMAN AND MEXICAN YOUTH

ANDOVER, N. H., *January 10, 1920.*

MR. A. D. CALL:

I am beginning a very interesting and what I consider a most important line of work connected with the international correspondence. I have felt for a long time that we must try to make friends with German youth or there would be danger that they would grow up without faith in God or man and would thus become a menace to the world. I wrote last July to Carolina Wood, the "Quaker Ambassador" in Berlin, regarding correspondence with German boys and girls. She was deeply interested and gathered the addresses of ten schools to send me. She wrote me they were starving for friendship as well as for food, and that our letters would mean so much to them in the "awful winter before them, when, again like primitive man, they would have to fight with hunger and cold for their very existence."

There is still so much bitterness in our schools as a whole, I fear, that I decided it would be best to begin this work through the Friends' schools, as there would be no danger of misunderstanding. During a visit to New York, I visited the famous Quaker school in Westtown, Pa., talked to the boys and girls there, and started a good movement. I saw Friends in Philadelphia and have secured the most active co-operation with the secretaries of the Young Friends of both the orthodox and Hicksite branches. Several Friends' colleges have taken it up. I suggested that Christmas cards be sent the German boys and girls, if we could get some names in season. A number of names were received from three schools and the cards were sent.

I am happy to report that I have already received over thirty letters from Germany, all interesting and revealing a fine spirit. The first letter received was written in English by a girl eighteen years of age. Such letters cannot help creating a better feeling. Boys have written such touching letters, are so eager to grasp a friendly hand, it is very pathetic.

I have had a number of letters from Dr. Emmel's school in Berlin. Dr. Emmel wrote me a beautiful letter; said he should work ardently for a "true world peace." I have never been so moved by any part of the correspondence as I am by this attempt to heal the wounds of war. No League

of Nations can work with Germany ostracised. I do not know of any more patriotic or more constructive work our young people can be engaged in than this.

I am now trying to get in touch with schools in Mexico through Quaker schools there. I shall start that correspondence in Proctor Academy here at Andover. It will not be necessary to confine that to the Friends' schools. I consider it most important that we establish friendly relations with Mexican youth. If you can through the ADVOCATE interest the readers in these two movements, I shall be very grateful. I shall be glad to answer any inquiries regarding this matter. Through the ADVOCATE I ought to be able to get in touch with people who would be glad to extend this movement. There are wonderful possibilities in it, but it should become countrywide.

Very sincerely yours,

MARY N. CHASE.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### **New Ideals in the Planning of Cities, Towns, and Villages.**

By *John Nolen*. American City Bureau, New York City. Pp. 139.

This is one of a series of books prepared for the Overseas Army, A. E. F., by the Department of Citizenship of the Army Educational Commission. But the armistice came and it was not studied or used by the officers and soldiers. Since it was prepared "to present fundamental principles and stimulate intelligent study of the problems of citizenship," as well as to aid in the planning of cities, towns, and villages; and since with the post-war period there have come innumerable problems of housing, town planning, and making life decent for dwellers in urban regions, at home and abroad, the book is very timely and serviceable. The author has an exceptionally high reputation in his profession, not only for knowledge of the history, theory, and technique of town and city building, but also for gifts as an expositor of the same in a way to reach plain people. Persons and communities faced with lack of adequate housing conditions, such as is characteristic of the western world, will find this little book, with its concise text, many illustrations, and hopeful spirit, an admirable guide to the way out.

### **Racial Factors in Democracy.** By *Phillip Ainsworth Means*.

Marshall Jones Co., Boston. Pp. 247, with bibliography. \$2.50 net.

Mr. Means is a young man with a rising fame among anthropologists, who combines the double function of a progressive-spirited American business man trading and manufacturing in Peru and of a trained scholar making himself conversant with the special qualities, the origins, and the possibilities of the native races of Latin America. In our last number we cited his recent discussion of the Mexican problem as a man views it who knows its race history, and in this book there is additional and cumulative evidence of the value to statesmen and internationalists of all types of his own and other men's researches showing how government is shaped by cultural and racial relationships and by differing systems of colonization and dependency rule.

What especially pleases a reader of this book is its insistence upon the necessity of "race-appreciation," and of the duty of the more dominant peoples and "kulturs" to serve the lesser with an eye to their ultimate equality and not as permanent inferiors or dependents. The author at times writes as if he were a reactionary in the presence of many contemporary social phenomena; but when he comes to formally define his position and face the logic of his premises he usually turns out to be a progressive democrat, with faith in the ultimate perfectibility of the race and the inevitability of final rule by the majority and not by a minority. He also is sound in his internationalism and in his insistence on equality of rights between States and cultures. "Only thus," he says, "can a solid and permanent world civilization be built."

**Progressive Religious Thought in America.** By *John W. Buckham*. Houghton-Mifflin Co., Boston. Pp. 340. \$2.00.

Professor Buckham, of the Pacific Seminary of the Univer-